

## Official: Shooter said he hated work years before killing 9

By TERENCE CHEA, JANIE HAR and STEFANIE DAZIO  
Associated Press

**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — A gunman who killed nine people at a California rail yard appeared to target some of the victims, a sheriff told The Associated Press on Thursday, while a Biden administration official said he spoke of hating his workplace when customs officers detained him after a 2016 trip to the Philippines. The shooter arrived at the light rail facility for the Valley Transportation Authority in San Jose around 6 a.m. Wednesday with a duffel bag filled with semi-automatic handguns and high-capacity magazines, Santa Clara County Sheriff Laurie Smith said in an interview. "It appears to us at this point that he said to one of the people there: 'I'm not going to shoot you,'" Smith said. "And then he shot other people. So I imagine there was some kind of thought on who he wanted to shoot." While there are no cameras inside the rail yard's two buildings, Smith said footage captured him moving from one location to the next. It took deputies six minutes from the first 911 calls to find the gunman on the third floor of one of the buildings, Smith said.

He killed himself as deputies closed in on the facility serving the county of more than 1 million people in the heart of Silicon Valley. More than 100 people were there at the time, and authorities found five victims in one building and two in another, Smith said.

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Law enforcement officers get gear from their trunk near the scene of a shooting in San Jose, Calif., on Wednesday, May 26, 2021

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## Official: Shooter said he hated work years before killing 9



California Gov. Gavin Newsom leaves a staging area for Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) workers, family members and officials following a shooting at one of the agency's rail yards on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press

### Continued from Front

Authorities do not yet know whether the gunman had worked regularly with any of the victims. Investigators were serving search warrants for his home and cell-phone, seeking to determine what prompted the bloodshed, the sheriff said. "I'm not sure we'll ever actually find the real motive, but we'll piece it together as much as we can from witnesses," she said. The attacker was identified as 57-year-old Samuel Cassidy, according to two law enforcement officials who were not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity. Cassidy had a memo book with notes on how he hated the Valley Transportation Authority, according to a Biden administration official who described a Department of Homeland Security memo that laid out Cassidy's statements. The official saw the memo and detailed its contents to The Associated Press but was not authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation.

The memo said he had books about "terrorism and fear and manifestos" but when he was asked whether he had issues with people at work he said no. The memo doesn't say why he was stopped after his 2016 trip. It notes that Cassidy had a "minor criminal history" and cites a 1983 incident where he was arrested in San Jose and charged with "misdemeanor obstruction/resisting a peace officer." Cassidy's ex-wife said he had talked about killing people at work more than a decade ago. "I never believed him, and it never happened. Until now," a tearful Cecilia Nelms told the AP on Wednesday. She said he used to come home from work resentful and angry over what he perceived as unfair assignments. "He could dwell on things," she said. The two were married for about 10 years until a 2005 divorce filing, and she had not been in touch with Cassidy for about 13 years, Nelms said. The three handguns he had appear to be legal, sheriff's

officials said. Authorities do not yet know how he obtained them. He also had 11 high-capacity magazines, each with 12 rounds. In California, it is illegal to buy magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. However, if Cassidy had obtained them before Jan. 1, 2000, he would be allowed to have them unless he was otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms. The sheriff said authorities found explosives at the gunman's home, where investigators believe he had set a timer or slow-burn device so that a fire would occur at the same time as the shooting. Flames were reported minutes after the first 911 calls came in from the rail facility. The attack was the 15th mass killing in the U.S. this year, all shootings that claimed at least four lives each for a total of 87 deaths, according to a database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University. President Joe Biden urged Congress to act on legislation to curb gun violence, saying, "Every life that is

taken by a bullet pierces the soul of our nation. We can, and we must, do more." The shooting killed employees who had been bus and light rail operators, mechanics, linemen and an assistant superintendent over the course of their careers. They were Alex Ward Fritch, 49; Paul Delacruz Megia, 42; Taptejdeep Singh, 36; Adrian Balleza, 29; Jose Dejesus Hernandez, 35; Timothy Michael Romo, 49; Michael Joseph Rudometkin, 40; Abdolvahab Alaghmandan, 63, and Lars Kepler Lane, 63. Family and friends remembered Singh as a hero. He called another transit employee to warn him about Cassidy, saying he needed to get out or hide. "He told me he was with Paul, another victim, at the time," co-worker Sukhvir Singh, who is not related to Taptejdeep Singh, said in a statement. "From what I've heard, he spent the last moments of his life making sure that others — in the building and elsewhere — would be able to stay safe."

Singh had worked as a light rail train driver for eight or nine years and had a wife and two small children, said his cousin, Bagga Singh. "We heard that he chose the people to shoot, but I don't know why they chose him because he has nothing to do with him," Bagga Singh said. A solemn and tearful moment of silence was held Thursday by transit authority officials, who read the names of the nine victims aloud and stood beside a giant poster board with their photos. The reality of the loss was hard to accept, said Raul Peralez, a San Jose councilman and transit authority board member who was a lifelong friend of Rudometkin, one of the victims. "I, unfortunately, get to know personally how these nine families have felt this past night, this morning with just a sense of disbelief, with a hope that your loved one is still going to come home and knowing that that's just never going to happen again," he said. A vigil for the victims was planned Thursday evening in San Jose. Meanwhile, there was nothing in public records to indicate Cassidy ever got in trouble with the law. He received a traffic ticket in 2019, and sheriff's officials said they were still investigating his background. Several times while he was drunk, Cassidy forced himself on her sexually despite her refusals, pinning her arms with his body weight, the woman said in a sworn statement filed after Cassidy sought a restraining order against her. The documents were obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle. The AP generally does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted. Cassidy had worked for Valley Transportation Authority since at least 2012, according to the public payroll and pension database Transparent California, first as a mechanic from 2012 to 2014, then maintaining substations. □



# AP sources: Staffing hampered response to prison suicide

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and  
MICHAEL R. SISAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The radios crackled with a frantic call for backup at a federal prison in California: An inmate was found hanging in his cell. Help was needed immediately.

But the prison, like many run by the U.S. government, is so chronically understaffed that other prison workers who would normally rush to the scene weren't able to leave posts where they were being forced to fill-in as correctional officers, two people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

Monday's death was reminiscent of one of the worst crises in the history of the federal Bureau of Prisons — when Jeffrey Epstein took his own life while in custody at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York — and exemplifies the dangers of the agency's severe staffing crisis, nearly three years after Epstein's suicide cast a bright spotlight on an agency that has been besieged by serious misconduct in recent years. The Associated Press reported last week that nearly one-third of federal correctional officer jobs in the United States are vacant, forcing prisons to use cooks, teachers, nurses and other workers to guard inmates. The expanded use of that practice, known as augmentation, has been raising questions about whether the agency can carry out its required duties to ensure the safety of prisoners and staff members while also putting in place programs and classes required under the law.

The 47-year-old inmate who died Monday at FCI Mendota, a medium-security prison just west of Fresno, was serving a more than four-year sentence for illegally reentering the United States after being deported. Juan Ramon Rodriguez-Barbosa was being held in the prison's segregated housing unit and was found hanging by officers who were making their required checks of inmates



Special investigative services Lt. Armando Cervantes, right, films protesters at the Federal Correctional Institution at Mendota during a demonstration over staffing shortages, near the prison entrance in Mendota, Calif., Monday, May 17, 2021.

Associated Press

in the unit every 30 minutes, the people familiar with the matter said. They could not discuss the details of the incident publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

The Bureau of Prisons said responding staff members "immediately initiated life-saving measures" and called for emergency medical crews, but Rodriguez-Barbosa was pronounced dead at the scene.

The agency insists that there was an immediate response to the medical call and an appropriate number of staff members responded. But there were others who normally would've responded to such a call and couldn't.

At the time of the incident, about half of the prison's correctional officer posts were filled by workers whose regular duties do not include guarding inmates. The Bureau of Prisons says all prison workers are trained as correctional workers, regardless of position or job title. Fully staffed,

there would have been more first responders rushing to the emergency call. Just hours before Rodriguez-Barbosa's death, the prison's warden, Douglas White, wrote to the entire staff to complain about media coverage that he said "painted a negative image" of the prison. He told them it is "time to stop talking and printing negative information" about the staff there.

Federal regulations require all Justice Department employees — including those in the Bureau of Prisons — to report allegations of illegal activity or serious administrative misconduct to the Justice Department's inspector general or internal affairs.

The warden's email appeared to have been sparked by an AP story highlighting understaffing at Mendota and the protest by union officials.

White had also sent other Bureau of Prisons employees with video cameras to record their fellow prison

workers who were protesting and members of the media covering it.

"The Warden sent staff to determine what was happening. When they found out no threat existed, they returned to the institution," a Bureau of Prisons spokesperson told the AP. The agency has refused to provide a copy of the video.

The Bureau of Prisons has been working to try to bring on more staff members — launching what it called a "hiring frenzy" — in February. The bureau says it hired nearly 4,000 new staff members in 2020 — more than in prior years — and that more than 500 additional hires are on the way. And the bureau says it has been holding hiring events at several prisons across the country.

They included two on Wednesday: one at Mendota this week and another to attract staff to work at federal jails in New York City — facilities that a federal judge recently said were "run by morons" and

left inmates in "inhuman" conditions.

But when The Associated Press visited the public park in downtown Manhattan where the event was supposed to be held, it was nonexistent. The Bureau of Prisons said the hiring fair was canceled "for safety and security" because of a rumor that a protest was going to happen in the same place.

The AP did not witness any large-scale protest in the nearly empty park; two people who were sitting at a table in the park said they were protesting police misconduct after being approached by an AP photographer.

"We absolutely would like to see as many hiring initiatives in the works as possible," the agency said in a statement.

"Hiring events are only one component of our recruitment efforts, and while we want them to proceed as planned, due to institutional needs, they may be postponed." □



# Auditors find no fraud in disputed New Hampshire election

By **MICHAEL CASEY**

**Associated Press**

**PEMBROKE N.H. (AP) —**

There is no evidence of fraud or political bias in a controversial New Hampshire election where a recount and audit has drawn the interest of former President Donald Trump, auditors concluded Thursday. Rather, auditors investigating the election in the town of Windham believe a folding machine used by the town to try to accommodate the numbers of absentee ballots in the November election is responsible for mistakenly adding to vote counts for candidates in four legislative seats.

"We found no evidence of fraud or political bias," Mark Lindeman, one of the three auditors and the acting co-director of Verified Voting, a nonpartisan non-profit organization, said. "I have heard no one actually articulate a credible hypothesis of how fraud could account for what we found."

The town used the machine to fold the absentee ballots before sending them to voters. After they were returned, the ballots were fed into a counting machine. Because the folds on some ballots went through a Democrats name, the ballot was either not counted or a vote was wrongly given to the Democrat.

The audit, mandated by the legislature and started earlier this month, is set



In this Tuesday May 11, 2021 file photo, election auditors Harri Hursti, right, and Mark Lindeman, catalog ballot boxes in Pembroke, N.H., during a forensic audit of the 2020 New Hampshire legislative election.

to finish Thursday. It was called by lawmakers from both parties after a recount requested by a losing Democratic candidate in one of the legislative races showed the Republicans getting hundreds more votes than were originally counted. No matter the audit findings, the results won't change.

The discrepancy drew the attention of Trump and his supporters in their effort to find evidence of his wider claim of election fraud from 2020. Trump's cheerleading of skeptics in Windham shows how his search for evidence to support his false claims of election

fraud have burrowed into American politics, even at the local level.

Kristi St. Laurent, the losing Democratic candidate who requested the recount, was watching the audit wrap up Thursday at the Edward Cross Training Center in Pembroke. She was satisfied with the audit and was counting on either the legislature or the secretary of state's office take action to ensure the problem doesn't happen again. "They have been very thorough, very transparent and it's also clear that it's multiple factors that led to the results we had on election night" she said.

But not everyone was convinced the audit would find the reason for the discrepancy in the counts or that auditors had done enough to look at fraud or other factors.

"I wish it wasn't ending. There is still a lot more work that needs to be done. If you are going to turn over every rock and look at every possibility, there is a lot of evidence that hasn't been looked at," said Tom Murray, a contractor from Windham who was watching the audit. He said he has "less faith in the integrity of the system now than I did before this audit started."

Auditors must issue a final report within 45 days and Lindeman said that would include a series of recommendations. But he doubts the findings would have relevance beyond Windham. "We have no reason to think that it's a statewide or national issue, although it's certainly possible that it occurred in other localities," he said.

That was echoed by Secretary of State Bill Gardner, who said ballots are sent to towns and cities with score marks to facilitate folding and the state ensures those marks don't go through the ovals where votes are marked.

"There's never been a ballot we sent out that was scored over an oval," he said.

While it's unknown how many other communities might use a folding machines like the one Windham did, Gardner said he suspects that few, if any, do. While the number of absentee ballots skyrocketed due to the pandemic, they generally make up a small percentage of the votes and communities don't have a problem folding ballots by hand.

Gardner has overseen 549 recounts in his 44 years as secretary of state, including 16 after the November elections. Those recounts involved 168,000 ballots — 22% of the total cast statewide — and 65 polling places. □

**Associated Press**



The Facebook app is shown on a smart phone, Friday, April 23, 2021, in Surfside, Fla.

**Associated Press**

Facebook says it will no longer remove claims that COVID-19 is human-made or manufactured "in light

of ongoing investigations into the origin of COVID-19 and in consultation with public health experts."

## Facebook won't remove posts claiming COVID-19 is human-made

There is rising pressure worldwide to investigate the origins of the pandemic, including the possibility that it came from a lab. Since the pandemic began, Facebook has been changing what it allows on the topic and what it bans. In February, it announced a host of new claims it would be prohibiting — including that COVID-19 was created in a Chinese lab. Other claims it added at the time included the false notion that vaccines are

not effective or that they are toxic.

Lisa Fazio, a professor of psychology at Vanderbilt University, said the reversal shows the difficulty of fact-checking in general, particularly with something unprecedented like the coronavirus, when experts can disagree and change their minds with new evidence.

"It's one reason that content moderation shouldn't be static, scientific consensus changes over time,"

Fazio said. "It's also a reminder to be humble and that for some questions the best current answer is "we don't know yet" or "it's possible, but experts think it's unlikely."

Facebook's reversal comes as President Joe Biden ordered U.S. intelligence officials to "redouble" their efforts to investigate the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, including any possibility the trail might lead to a Chinese laboratory. □



# UN rights chief: Israeli strikes in Gaza may be war crimes

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The top U.N. human rights body on Thursday passed a resolution aimed to intensify scrutiny of Israel's treatment of Palestinians, after the U.N. rights chief said Israeli forces may have committed war crimes and faulted the militant group Hamas for violations of international law in their 11-day war this month.

The 24-9 vote, with 14 abstentions, capped a special Human Rights Council session on the rights situation faced by Palestinians. The session and the resolution were arranged by Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries, which have strongly supported Palestinians in their struggles with Israel.

The resolution, which will almost certainly go unheeded by Israel, calls for the creation of a permanent "Commission of Inquiry" the most potent tool at the council's disposal to monitor and report on rights violations in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. It would be the first such COI with an "ongoing" mandate.

The commission is also to investigate "all underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict" including discrimination and re-



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, is displayed on a screen as she delivers her speech during a special session of the UN Human Rights Council to discuss situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Associated Press

pression, according to the text. Amid signs that the resolution would pass, its authors added more teeth to its language with a late revision on Wednesday. The revised text calls on states to refrain from "transferring arms" the recipients were not specified when they asses "a clear risk" that such weapons might be used to commit serious violations of human rights or humanitarian law. That appeared aimed to countries that ship weapons to

Israel.

China and Russia were among those voting in favor. Several Western and African countries voted no. British ambassador Simon Manley said the commission's "overly expansive mandate ... risks hardening positions on both sides," and Austrian ambassador, Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, said the session "continues the regrettable practice of singling out Israel for criticism in the Human Rights Council."

Russian envoy Olga Vorontsova said the resolution "has the goal of establishing all of the facts behind all alleged violations in the latest period."

Venezuelan Ambassador Hector Constant Rosales said a resolution "condemning the genocidal action of the Israeli government" was urgently needed.

Israel had called on "friendly" countries to oppose the meeting, and the United States — while not a

member of the 47-member state body — did not take part, even in its status as an observer state. An array of countries denounced the latest violence and urged efforts to address the roots of the Mideast conflict.

After the vote, the U.S. mission in Geneva said the United States "deeply regrets" the move to create an "open-ended" Commission of Inquiry.

It said some unspecified member states of the council "have chosen to engage in a distraction that adds nothing to ongoing diplomatic and humanitarian efforts" in the region.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, who spoke early in the session, called on Israel to allow an independent probe of military actions in the latest spasm of deadly violence, which left devastation and death in the Gaza Strip before a cease-fire last week.

The 11-day war killed at least 248 in Gaza, including 66 children and 39 women. In Israel, 12 people also died, including two children.

"Air strikes in such densely populated areas resulted in a high level of civilian fatalities and injuries, as well as the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure," Bachelet said. □

## Trudeau apologizes to Italian Canadians for WW2 internment

By ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Thursday made a formal apology for the internment of Italian-Canadians during the Second World War. After Italy declared war against Canada in 1940, Canada interned more than 600 people of Italian heritage and declared about 31,000 as "enemy aliens."

Trudeau said in Parliament Thursday that those labeled "enemy aliens" were fingerprinted, scrutinized and forced to report to local registrars once a month.

"To the men and women

who were taken to prisoner of war camps or jail without charge people

who are no longer with us to hear this apology To the tens of thousands of in-



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a news conference in Ottawa on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Associated Press

nocent Italian-Canadians who were labelled enemy aliens To the children and grandchildren who have carried a past generation's shame and hurt And to their community a community that has given so much to our country We are sorry," Trudeau said. Trudeau noted that the parents of Frank Iacobucci, a former justice of Canada's Supreme Court, were among those labeled enemy aliens under a policy he said went against the values that Canada had gone to war to defend.

"When, on June 10th 1940, this House of Commons declared war on Musso-

lini's fascist regime in Italy, Canada did not also have to declare war on Italian-Canadians," Trudeau said. "To stand up to the Italian regime that had sided with Nazi Germany that was right. But to scapegoat law-abiding Italian-Canadians that was wrong."

Trudeau said internees weren't afforded due legal process.

"When the authorities came to their door, when they were detained; there were no formal charges, no ability to defend themselves in an open and fair trial, no chance to present or rebut evidence," Trudeau said. □



# Thai officials vow to curb risks by fighting wildlife trade

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP Business Writer

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Thailand is ramping up efforts to curb trade in wildlife to help reduce the risk of future pandemics, officials said Thursday, though it was unclear whether that would mean an end to all sales of exotic species in the wildlife trafficking hub.

The government intends to make Thailand “free of the legal wildlife trade” while also combatting illegal trafficking in wild animals, Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment Waravut Silpa-archa said Thursday.

Speaking in pre-recorded addresses, Silpa-archa and other officials said the pandemic has raised the urgency of shutting down the supply chain of wildlife and game meat that is thought to be a key factor in the spread of COVID-19, Ebola and other illnesses.

The motto for the campaign, he said, is, “Stop disease and extinctions: Never eat, buy, hunt or sell wildlife.”

Since the minister delivered his remarks remotely, it was not possible to ask if author-



In this Dec. 20, 2019, file photo, Cola, 10-year-old female orangutan waits in a cage to be sent back to Indonesia at a Suvarnabhumi Airport in a collaborative effort to combat the illicit wildlife trade in Bangkok, Thailand.

ities plan to shutter markets that still sell a variety of exotic species, even in downtown Bangkok.

Some markets are closed, at least for now, as Thailand grapples with its worst wave of coronavirus outbreaks since the pandemic began. The first case outside of China surfaced in

Bangkok, but the number of infections remained low until this April, when cases surged despite strict quarantines for people entering the country.

Officials, meanwhile, are turning their attention to preventing future crises linked to the spread of diseases such as COVID-19

that are believed to spread from animals to humans.

Thailand has one of the strongest enforcement regimes in the region, at least on paper.

The minimum fine for trafficking in protected species is \$9,000, together with imprisonment of more than 10 years, Silpa-archa said at a

Associated Press

seminar hosted by the anti-trafficking group Freeland at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand.

At the same time, destruction of habitat is increasingly forcing animals and people into closer proximity. Poaching is a significant problem and demand for some species, especially in China, is a key factor driving the wildlife trade.

“It is vital to tackle the sales and consumption of high-risk wildlife as its supply chain is the source of the highest risk of zoonotic diseases. We need to stop the supply chain,” the minister said.

“The best way to end the illegal wildlife trade is to break its supply chain.”

The coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is thought to have emerged from wild bats or other species, though the exact origins of the disease, which spread from the central Chinese city of Wuhan in early 2020, are a subject of intense debate.

In February 2020, the Chinese government announced a broad ban on the consumption of wild animals. □

## European privacy groups challenge facial scan firm Clearview

By KELVIN CHAN

AP Business Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — Privacy campaign groups filed legal complaints Thursday with European regulators against Clearview AI, alleging the facial recognition technology it provides to law enforcement agencies and businesses breaches stringent European Union privacy rules. Four groups complained to data protection authorities in France, Austria, Greece, Italy and the U.K. about Clearview's practices. They say the company stockpiled biometric data on more than 3 billion people without their knowledge or permission by “scraping” their images from websites.

The complaints say Clearview didn't have any legal basis to collect and pro-

cess this data under the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, which covers facial image data. Britain adopted its own version of the EU privacy rules after it left the bloc.

“Clearview AI has never had any contracts with any EU customer and is not currently available to EU customers,” CEO Hoan Ton-That said in a statement.

News of Clearview's stockpile, first reported by The New York Times, raised concerns that the type of surveillance seen in China could happen in Western democracies.

Privacy International said European data protection laws clearly outline the purposes for which companies can use personal data.

“Extracting our unique facial features or even sharing them with the police and other companies goes far beyond what we could ever expect as online users,” said Ioannis Kouvakas, London-based Privacy International's legal officer.

Italy's Hermes Center for Transparency and Digital Human Rights, Greece's Homo Digitalis and Austria's noyb were also part of the challenge. The complaints are partly based on requests individuals can file to see what data a company holds on them. Ton-That said Clearview “voluntarily processed” the requests, which “only contain publicly available information, just like thousands of others we have processed.”

Clearview is already fac-



In this file photo dated Friday Jan. 22, 2021, the European Union flag flies outside Europe House in London.

Associated Press

ing global scrutiny. American civil liberties activists filed a similar legal challenge in March that sought to bar Clearview from collecting biometric information in California and force it to delete data on Californians collected

from sites including Facebook, Twitter, Google and Venmo.

Meanwhile, privacy watchdogs in Britain, Australia and Canada have opened investigations into the company. □



# Thousands evacuate Congo's Goma amid renewed volcano threat

By JUSTIN KABUMBA KATUMWA and AL-HADJI KUDRA MALIRO

Associated Press

**GOMA, Congo (AP)** — Tens of thousands of people are fleeing the city of Goma in eastern Congo fearing another volcanic eruption by Mount Nyiragongo, which spewed lava near the city last week. Traffic was jammed and pedestrians streamed through the streets, desperate to escape the impending danger.

A new eruption could occur at any moment, the military governor of Congo's North Kivu province, Lt. Gen. Constant Ndimba Kongba, announced Thursday. He ordered the evacuation of 10 of the 18 neighborhoods in the city of nearly 2 million residents.

Full of fear, residents from many of the unlisted neighborhoods also fled after no warnings of Saturday's eruption left so many in harm's way.

The center of Goma, which was spared when the volcano erupted last week, is now under threat, with activity being reported near the urban area and Lake Kivu, Kongba said.

"Based on these scientific observations, we cannot



**Traffic clogs a main road as residents try to flee Goma, Congo, Thursday, May 27, 2021, five days after Mount Nyiragongo erupted. Evacuation orders were given to most of the town, fearing further eruptions and tremors.**

currently rule out an eruption on land or under the lake. And this could happen with very little, or no, warning," he said. An eruption under Lake Kivu could also have harmful consequences by leading to an explosion of gas in the lake, which could destroy parts of Goma and Gisenyi in neighboring Rwanda.

Residents were advised to carry very little and told not

to return to their homes until advised by authorities. Authorities provided vehicles for the evacuations.

Many people were seen heading northwest toward the town of Sake and east toward Rwanda. International organizations such as the U.N. mission in Congo had on Wednesday already begun evacuating their staff.

"I am with my two children

heading toward Sake, after leaving my home. My husband is on a mission in Kinshasa and I don't know how I'm going to meet him," she said. "I don't think about my house because my family's safety and health come first. I can build another house if I want to. I know that my God will save Goma."

Mount Nyiragongo, one of the world's most active

volcanos, turned the dark sky fiery red Saturday night and then spewed torrents of lava into villages on the outskirts of Goma destroying more than 500 homes and resulting in the deaths of more than 32 people.

Scientists at the volcano observatory weren't able to adequately warn the public of the eruption because of a funding cut, according to the scientific director of the Volcanic Observatory of Goma, Celestin Kasereka Mahinda.

A partnership between the government and the World Bank that had supported the observatory was cut in October 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, leaving the observatory without even internet, he said. The observatory had just started to resume operations last month thanks to new funding from the U.S. Geological Survey's Volcano Disaster Assistance Program, which means the observatory can at least gather data after the eruption. Data wasn't needed for many who felt hundreds of aftershocks this past week that have left gigantic cracks in the ground and destroyed buildings. The volcano sits about 6 miles from Goma. □

Associated Press

## Mayoral candidate killed in Mexico; 34 dead so far

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Yet another mayoral candidate in north-central Mexico has been killed, bringing to 34 the number of candidates murdered nationwide ahead of the

June 6 elections.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Wednesday the killing was "without doubt" the work of organized crime gangs. The Etellekt consulting

firm said the overwhelming majority of the 34 slain candidates were vying for nominations or running for local posts.

Alma Barragán was killed Tuesday while campaigning for the mayorship of the city of Morelón in violence-plagued Guanajuato state.

Experts say drug gangs want to place sympathetic candidates in town halls and city governments, so they can operate without interference from police and extort money from local businesses and government budgets.

López Obrador said the gangs were killing candidates to scare voters away from the polls.

"When there is a lot of ab-

stentionism, the mafias dominate the elections," the president said.

Barragán was running on the ticket of the small Citizen's Movement party, which said in a statement that, "It is unthinkable that participating in political life means putting one's life at risk."

"This is the most violent election in Mexican histo-

ry, and in Citizen's Movement we are not willing to act as if that is normal."

Morelón is located near the border with Michoacán state, also hit by drug cartel violence.

The insurgent Jalisco cartel has been fighting local gangs backed by the Sinaloa cartel for control of Guanajuato. □



**A woman attends the wake of mayoral candidate Alma Barragán in Morelón, Mexico, Wednesday, May 26, 2021.**

Associated Press

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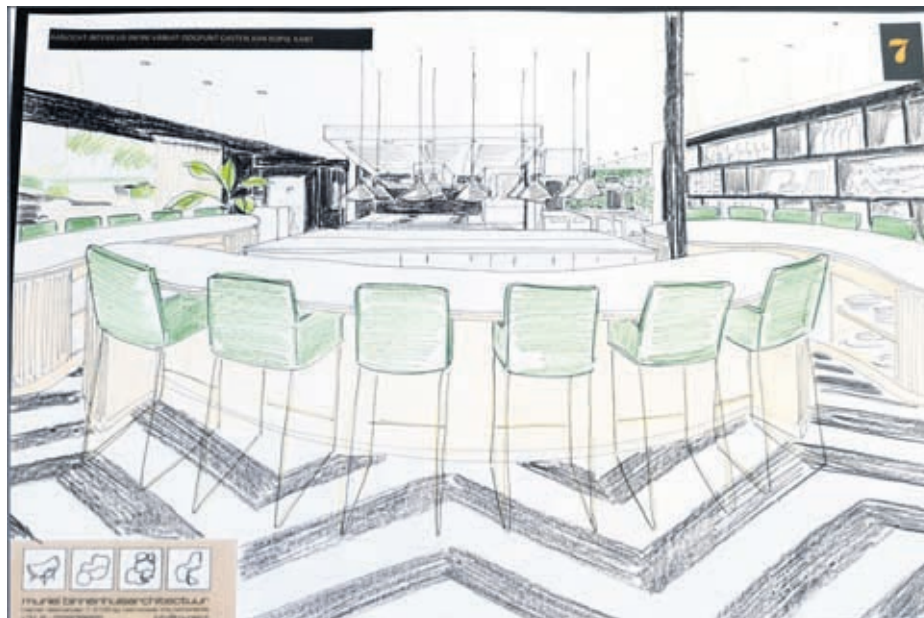
## New beginnings after the kitchen table and beyond with new restaurant: Infini by Chef Urvin Croes

**PALM BEACH** — After spearheading The Kitchen Table for five years, receiving notable recognitions in USA Today, The Daily Meal and earning the #1 spot on Tripadvisor's list of Fine Dining Restaurants in the Caribbean, Chef Urvin Croes has now moved on to higher heights. Infini, his new chef's table, which opened at the Blue Residences in November 2020, allows the Michelin-trained Aruban culinary artist to create gastronomic experiences unconfined by cultural or regional expectations. The former The Kitchen Table space has since been renovated into a suitable culinary studio to host this vision. In describing these changes, Croes says: "We opened up the entire kitchen and elevated the dining tables so guests have a front row stadium-like view of each step of the preparations. The spotlights, which we carefully choreograph, follow the plates' transition from blank canvas into culinary works of art."

### "It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create."

He had been sitting on the first menu for over a year. Inspired by umami, one of the five basic tastes, and also Japanese for "essence of deliciousness", Chef Croes strived to organically produce this palate in each dish of the eight-course Chef's Impression. "It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create. Take our popular langoustine for example; we combined elements that are rarely paired together: the bitter, sour and salty flavors of the lemon cream, kombucha, green grapes, watercress and achiote, fused with the sweet and delicate taste of the langoustine induce ultimate umami."

After hosting the first menu for three months, the Executive Chef introduced a second tour de force in February 2021 — this time a pes-



catarian menu dedicated to Lent, of which Croes has to say: "I wanted to focus on the finest fish in the world, they are the protagonists of this season." Visitors can experience the second Chef's Impression until May 2021, at which point Croes and his team will reveal exciting new flavors for the summer.

### "Without a great team, there is no great chef"

"There is very little I can do by myself. Without a great team, there is no great chef", says Croes, while raving about the six young professionals sharing his kitchen. All graduates of Aruba's EPI College and familiar faces to the Chef as each one has completed their culinary internship under his guidance. In fact, Infini's Chef de Cuisine, Ashwin Maduro, was Urvin's very first student, before relocating to Amsterdam, where he worked at several Michelin-starred restaurants, including &moshik (formally &Samhoud Places). Having recently re-



turned to Aruba, Chef Maduro is thrilled to be reunited with his first mentor and hopes to secure Aruba's space on the global map of unique culinary experiences. Similarly, after four years working in the two-Michelin starred restaurant Spectrum, Chef de Partie Moises Ramirez returned home to share his vast experience in formulating recipes with meticulous attention to detail and consistency. Further down the kitchen line, Chef de Partie Alvaro Yi, who has worked at the two-Michelin starred FG Restaurant, is all about expressing himself through cooking and plating to create art that you can eat. Mixologist Marc-Anthony Rannis brings eight years of experience in the fine dining industry to Infini. His fine craftsmanship is displayed in the unparalleled wine pairings and signature cocktails, which include his personally homemade syrups, garnishes and fresh local ingredients. Maître D' and Junior Sommelier Jessica Theysen, who previously



managed renowned Chef Dennis Huwaë's Restaurant Daalder in Amsterdam, is a true storyteller. From the moment she serves the Salinity welcome drink and the culinary tale begins, she takes you on an adventure around the world to discover never-before-tasted combinations. Then, towards the end of the night, it is his time to shine — Pastry Chef Jean-Claude Werleman, that is. After spending the last two years perfecting his recipes in the Pastry Department of the Ritz Carlton Aruba, Werleman joins Infini to continue exploring his passion for experimenting with colors and bold flavors.

### "It's time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own"

"The goal is to leave our visitors speechless. The look on their faces whenever they take the first bite says it all and it is priceless", shares Croes, with a smile. Reclaiming the spot of number one restaurant in the Caribbean is also in sight, but this time he will not stop there. "In the end, we want Aruba to be recognized for its culinary mastery. We have trained the best culinary artists right here on the island and they have proven themselves internationally in the most renowned kitchens in the world. Now it is time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own. Who knows where that will take us; hopefully to infinity and beyond."

Infini located at Blue Residences currently serves an eight-course Chef's Impression to up to 21 guests starting at 6:30PM. To make reservations visit [www.infiniaruba.com](http://www.infiniaruba.com) or call +297-699-3982. □



**infini**  
by Urvin Croes





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## Distinguished Visitors honored at Eagle Aruba Resort

**EAGLE BEACH** — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were the lovely couple Mr. Brian & Mrs. Ginger Ziskal from South Carolina, USA!

This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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# Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba



**ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.**

Outside the colony, the game of baseball was introduced to Aruba by Venezuelan immigrants and sailors on the Venezuelan fishing boats that used Aruba as their home port. They formed pick-up teams and played games on Sundays on an open field behind what is now the Court of Justice. One of the Venezuelans that comes to mind is Felix Garrido, grandfather of our current Prime-Minister.



In the late 30s the leader of this group was Raúl Aparicio, a cousin of Luis Aparicio who is now enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. The Aparicios were evidently very good at sports. Raúl had two brothers who also played

baseball, René and Roman. Rosendo, his only brother who did not play baseball became a professional soccer player in the Venezuelan league. Rosendo was nicknamed "Cabeza de oro" (golden head) for a memorable header he scored to win a game for his team.

Interestingly, it was in Aruba that Luis Aparicio played his first game outside of Venezuela. This took place in 1950 when he played shortstop for the school he attended. Later he played for "Cabimas" in a doubleheader of the Venezuelan Western League. These official games of the league were authorized to be played in Aruba by the Professional Baseball Organization of Venezuela. Several others who played in those games have also been enshrined.

Luis Aparicio's father was the super popular Luis "El Grande" (the great one) after whom the baseball stadium in Maracaibo is named. He and his brother owned the professional baseball teams "Gavilanes" which later became the "Aguilas", and the "Cabimas".



In the early '40s, another group, mostly immigrants from the Dominican Republic also became very active with pickup teams. Some of these remained active in baseball well into the early '50s; as umpires, managers even as players. Among these were Nestor "Pantin" Guerrero who also had a musical band. Perhaps not so coincidentally, many of Pantin's players were also musicians. Luthai Pantophlet who umpired many years was a well-known drummer. Gaston Hazel was a bongo player; José Bryson and the brothers Nicholson, Teddy and Julio, all played several instruments.

In San Nicolas, baseball was played on the grounds next to where the LAGO Sport Park (now

Laveist Sport Park) was officially inaugurated in March 1941.

During the WWII years, baseball got a big lift from the influx of Puerto Rican and US soldiers stationed here. As LAGO was playing a very important role in the struggle against Hitler, it was able to get all the sports equipment needed here to allow more people to participate.

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria" (named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes' Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes' Ramblers"), that would play for the first



time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.



During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Bogaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □



# Shoppers go back to stores, but retailers face challenges

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Americans are going back to one of their favorite past-times: store shopping.

With more people getting vaccinated and dropping their face masks, retailers from Walmart to Macy's are seeing an eager return to their stores after more than a year of their customers migrating online during the pandemic.

Marcia Williams, who lives in a Philadelphia suburb and who stuck to online shopping only during the height of COVID-19, went back to her local mall right after she was fully vaccinated last month. That was her first time in more than a year.

"I am definitely getting out," said Williams, a hair and makeup artist who spent nearly \$1,000 on clothing for herself and her three children during several buying trips. "I do feel more comfortable. I like the experience of trying on clothes. I love grocery shopping. It's my outlet."

The return to store shopping, highlighted in many retailers' earnings reports in recent days, offers a big relief in part because shoppers return less when they



Troy Hemlin visiting Chicago from Springfield Ill., crosses the street carrying shopping bags, Wednesday, May 26, 2021, in downtown Chicago.

make their purchases at the store 8% compared with 25% for online, according to Forrester Research. And store customers tend to do more impulse buying. For clothing, for instance, 25% of purchases are done on a whim versus 16% online, says market research firm NPD Group Inc.

"Retailers want you in the store," said Marshal Cohen, NPD's chief industry advisor. "They need you to be in the store so you generate more traffic. Crowds bring more crowds. (Shoppers)

buy more product." Still, retailers particularly mall-based stores and other specialty stores that were struggling even before the pandemic face plenty of challenges to keep customers coming back. They face stepped up competition online and from discounters that thrived in the last year. Experts also say that post-pandemic shoppers will be even more demanding: After being forced to stay close to home, they're looking for better and convenient ser-

vices and experiences.

Many retailers like Macy's are still recovering from the pandemic, which forced them to temporarily close early last year, driving more traffic to big box stores that were allowed to stay open. And overall store traffic, while rebounding, is still not back to where it was two years ago.

Customer counts at overall stores surged 43.2% for the week starting May 10 compared to the year-ago period, but that number was still down 5.6% for

that same period in 2019, says mobile-device location data from foot-traffic analytics firm Placer.ai. In clothing, customer counts soared more than two-fold for the same timeframe, but it was down 11.2% on a two-year basis. For big-box stores like Target, customer counts were up 5.3% for the same period but down 4.9% on a two-year basis.

Analysts are carefully watching the battered department store sector's market share, which shrunk from 3% in 2019 to 2% last year and has remained at that figure for the first four months of the year, according to NPD. In comparison, discounters' market share held steady at 21% last year from 2019 but ticked up to 22% for the early part of this year.

The pandemic pulled forward the pace of online spending by about two years. Online shopping is expected to account for 21% of overall sales, or \$794 billion, in 2020 compared to the prior year and should increase to 27%, or \$1.1 trillion in 2023, Forrester says. However, online sales growth is slowing down, from 29.5% last year to a projected 15.6% this year and 10% next year. □

Associated Press

## Acorns' stock to take root after investing app OKs merger

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Acorns Grow, whose app encourages people to save and invest with subscriptions for as little as \$1 per month, plans to soon have its own stock trading on the Nasdaq.

The financial technology company said Thursday that it will combine with Pioneer Merger, a so-called blank-check company whose stock trades on the Nasdaq but had no real business except for looking for another business to merge with. The deal values Acorns at about \$2.2 billion and would allow its shares to trade on a public exchange without having to go through a traditional initial public offering,

which can take more time and invite more scrutiny. Acorns says it's the largest subscription service

in U.S. finance with more than four million subscribers, and that "from acorns, mighty oaks do grow." The

company's \$1 plan offers an investment account and helps people automatically steer their spare change from everyday purchases into ETF investments. Its higher-tier plans offer checking accounts, a "heavy metal debit card" and other services for \$3 and \$5 monthly subscriptions.

The combined company expects to trade under the ticker symbol "OAKS" after the deal closes, which may happen in the second half of the year.

Some big-name institutional investors are putting money into the company as part of the deal, including Wellington Management. Pioneer Merger is a

special-purpose acquisitions company, which are also known as SPACs. They were exploding in popularity early this year, as investors welcomed the possibility of getting their money into the next hot thing, but SPACs have slowed recently as the stock market has become volatile.

Still, SPACs have raised more than \$104 billion already in 2021, up from less than \$84 billion in all of last year and less than \$14 billion in 2019. The deal between Acorns and Pioneer has approvals from the boards of both companies, but it still needs an OK from Pioneer's stockholders, among other things, before closing. □



In this Sept. 20, 2018 file photo, Acorns CEO Noah Kerner participates in the Yahoo Finance All Markets Summit: A World of Change at The TimesCenter in New York.

Associated Press



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Shade
- 6 Oven feature
- 11 Game place
- 12 Quite impressed
- 13 Unkempt
- 14 Longed
- 15 Interlace
- 17 Fling
- 18 Clip
- 20 "Like that'll happen!"
- 22 Braying beast
- 23 Spy's asset
- 26 Exorbitant
- 28 Nurse Barton
- 29 Inlaid flooring
- 31 Yoga need
- 32 Surrounding glow
- 33 Stare in disbelief
- 34 "Femando" group
- 36 Of two minds
- 38 Island south of Sicily
- 40 Computer shortcut
- 43 Hog the mirror
- 44 Patriot Allen
- 45 Fresh
- 46 "Keen!"

## DOWN

- 1 Motor part
- 2 Galena, for one
- 3 Musical set in
- 4 Beginning France
- 5 Tampa Bay
- 6 Waiter's reward
- 7 Monogram unit
- 8 Musical set in
- 9 Rams' mates
- 10 Cincinnati team
- 16 Topper
- 18 Shocked sound
- 19 Nick and
- 21 Church dog
- 23 Goad on
- 24 Golf bunker
- 25 Loathe
- 27 Draws a
- 30 Have a bite
- 33 Drain cover
- 34 Band boosters
- 35 Film's Theda
- 37 Troubling sign
- 39 One or more
- 41 Informant
- 42 Singer Yoko

M	E	S	A		B	R	O	N	T	E
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										S

Yesterday's answer

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13						14				
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34	35					36	37			
38					39	40			41	42
43						44				
45						46				

5-28

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-28

## CRYPTOQUOTE

O E T R T S O P C V P U O S V C U Q

C W Q X S , K V X O F F C W Q X S

V Y V S O S T P I Q Q S E G F Q E

X T U V W . — M O C C O P K J W Q Y V W N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU DON'T DROWN BY FALLING IN THE WATER; YOU DROWN BY STAYING THERE. — EDWIN LOUIS COLE

## 'Nothing looks good' preparing for summer wildfire season



In this Sept. 11, 2020, file photo, firefighters light a controlled burn along Nacimiento-Fergusson Road to help contain the Dolan Fire near Big Sur, Calif.

Associated Press

By ANDREW SELSKY

Associated Press

**SALEM, Ore. (AP)** — Wearing soot-smudged, fire-resistant clothing and helmets, several wildland firefighters armed with hoes moved through a stand of ponderosa pines as flames tore through the underbrush.

The firefighters weren't there to extinguish the fire. They had started it.

The prescribed burn, ignited this month near the scenic mountain town of Bend, is part of a massive effort in wildlands across the U.S. West to prepare for a fire season that's expected to be even worse than last year's record-shattering one. The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management have thinned by hand, machines and prescribed burns about 1.8 million acres (728,000 hectares) of forest and brushland since last season, officials from the agencies told The Associated Press. They typically treat some 3 million (1.2 million hectares) acres every year. All that activity, though, has barely scratched the surface. The federal government owns roughly 640 million acres (260 million hectares) in the U.S. All but 4% of it lies in the West, including Alaska, with some of it unsuitable

for prescribed burning. "All these steps are in the right direction, but the challenge is big and complex," said John Bailey, professor of silviculture and fire management at Oregon State University. "And more needs to be done to even turn the corner."

Severe drought has turned forests and grasslands into dry fuels, ready to ignite from a careless camper or a lightning strike. More people are building in areas bordering wildlands, expanding the so-called wildland-urban interface, an area where wildfires impact people the most. Invasive, highly flammable vegetation is spreading uncontrolled across the West. "I'm seeing probably the worst combination of conditions in my lifetime," said Derrick DeGroot, a county commissioner in southern Oregon's Klamath County. "We have an enormous fuel load in the forests, and we are looking at a drought unlike we've seen probably in the last 115 years."

Asked how worried he is about the 2021 fire season, DeGroot said: "On a scale of 1 to 10, I'm a 12. Nothing looks good." In other prevention measures, utility companies are removing vegetation around power lines and are ready to im-

pose blackouts when those lines threaten to spark a fire. Armies of firefighters are being beefed up. And communities are offering incentives for residents to make their own properties fire-resistant. Still, much work remains to change the West's trajectory with fire, particularly in two fundamental areas, said Scott Stephens, professor of wildland fire science at the University of California, Berkeley. "One is getting people better prepared for the inevitability of fire in areas like the wildland urban interface. That includes new construction," he said. "And the second is getting our ecosystems better prepared for climate change and fire impacts."

On the local level, individuals and communities need to create defensible spaces and evacuation plans, Stephens said. On the government level, a lot more resources need to go to managing the forests through prescribed burns and thinning. "I think we've got one to two decades," he said. "If we don't do this in earnest, we're frankly just going to be watching the forest change right in front of our eyes from fire, climate change, drought, insects, things of that nature." □



# Forecast: 40% chance Earth to be hotter than Paris goal soon



In this Friday, June 26, 2020 file photo, the sun sets behind a smokestack in the distance in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

There's a 40% chance that the world will get so hot in the next five years that it will temporarily push past the temperature limit the Paris climate agreement is trying to prevent, meteorologists said.

A new World Meteorological Organization forecast for the next several years also predicts a 90% chance that the world will set yet another record for the hottest year by the end of 2025 and that the Atlantic will continue to brew more potentially dangerous hurricanes than it used to.

For this year, the meteorologists say large parts of land in the Northern Hemisphere will be 1.4 degrees (0.8 degrees Celsius) warmer than recent decades and that the U.S. Southwest's drought will continue.

The 2015 Paris climate accord set a goal of keeping warming to a few tenths of a degree warmer from now. The report said there is a 40% chance that at least one of the next five years will be 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahr-

enheit) higher than pre-industrial times — the more stringent of two Paris goals. The world is already 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than pre-industrial times.

Last year, the same group forecasted a 20% chance of it happening.

The doubling of the odds is due to improvements in technology that show it has "actually warmed more than we thought already," especially over the lightly-monitored polar regions, said Leon Herman-son, a climate scientist at the United Kingdom's Met Center who helped on the forecast.

"It's a warning that we need to take strong action," Hermanson said.

Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann, who wasn't part of the report, said he is "almost certain" the

world will exceed that Paris warming threshold at least once in the next few years. But he said one or two years above 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) isn't as worrisome as when the overall trend of temperatures stays above that level.

Mann said that won't happen probably for decades and could still be prevented. □

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# Fun, foul-mouthed reunion for Turner, Douglas on 'Kominsky'



This image released by Netflix shows Michael Douglas, from left, Sarah Baker and Kathleen Turner in a scene from the third and final season of "The Kominsky Method."

Associated Press

By **AMANDA LEE MYERS**

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Nearly four decades ago, "Romancing the Stone" introduced audiences to the crackling chemistry between Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. Now at 76 and 66 years old, Douglas and Turner are back on screen together in the third and final season of Netflix's "The Kominsky Method." Despite the many years that have passed since their third and last film together, their reunion was seamless.

"Like riding a bicycle," Douglas said over a video call earlier this week. "We'd look at each other, and there's a lot of memories coming back."

The Los Angeles-set "Kominsky Method" doesn't place the pair in the same exotic locations as 1984's "Romancing the Stone" or its sequel "Jewel of the Nile." But it does include the type of caustic barbs from their last film together, 1989's "The War of the Roses."

It was with that in mind that Douglas thought to invite Turner to join "The Kominsky Method" in its second season to play his character's

sharp-tongued ex-wife, who's introduced during a phone call. The idea came to Douglas immediately when creator/writer Chuck Lorre mentioned introducing an ex-wife to the show. "I just smiled and I said, 'This is 'The War of the Roses' revisited 30 years later,'" Douglas said. "We've already got our back stories and we're all set."

As in the film, Turner often uses R-rated terms when speaking to Douglas' character, which never fails to delight her in real life.

"(There are) two times at least when she gets to go, 'No, I'm f----- with you, a-----!'" Turner recalled, laughing. "It was just such fun. And he takes it very well, I have to say."

Seeing the two of them act together again was "thrilling," said Sarah Baker, who plays Douglas' daughter in the show.

"I like to think of myself as the 'Romancing the Stone' baby," she joked. "The chemistry is just there, that timing, the rapport between them. It's the kind of thing, it's very difficult to fake, so when you have that just inherently between you, we just got to sit

back and watch and had a front-row seat, which was amazing."

Paul Reiser, who plays Baker's fiancé, said he was struck by the uniqueness of Douglas' and Turner's relationship.

"There aren't that many pairings of actors ... There aren't that many that you've seen repeatedly," he said. "You've got De Niro and Pesci. Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon. ... You subconsciously have this history that the minute you see them. It almost breaks the frame in a good way. It makes what you're watching seem a piece of what you've been watching for years. It's a real treat to have that."

Turner's presence — along with an expanded role for Reiser and smaller parts for Oscar winners Morgan Freeman and Allison Janney — helps make up for the third season's absence of Alan Arkin, who left the show after its second season. His banter with and needling of Douglas was pitch perfect and earned both men Emmy nominations.

"He was such an instrumental part of our success,"

Douglas said. "It was a little bit of a risk ... but I felt strong enough for the other characters."

Douglas said he's sad the show is ending but that he appreciates what it has taught him.

"One of the main reasons why I did it was just to kind of learn a little more about comedy and how you do it and your timing," he said. "At this point in your career you kind of say, 'What have you done? What haven't you done?'"

The experience has been "a joy," he said, pointing in particular to Reiser's comedic timing and Lorre's writing.

Douglas is ready for his next acting challenge. He is about to start filming on the third "Ant-Man," which will be his first time performing in a movie using a green screen.

"I wanted to see what it was like," he said.

His reunion with Turner gave both of them a chance to reflect on their early careers.

Turner recalled first meeting Douglas over Mexican food before filming "Romancing the Stone."

"Oh, he's very sexy," she

recalls thinking of him. But she didn't let that intimidate her. "He's quite sure of what he wants. He's quite focused and specific. So you just kind of go, 'Uh huh, uh huh, OK.' But then when you saw the work: 'I need to be a full partner.' And he understood and respected that."

After that, the two of them "went through a lot."

From mountainous muddy roads in Mexico to oppressive desert heat in Africa, filming their first two films was a true adventure. "The War of the Roses" also had its challenges, despite 90% of the film taking place in a house.

Turner said she and Douglas recently had a laugh about the film's famous last scene, in which their warring characters become precariously stuck on a giant chandelier. The actors had to sit in the chandelier for hours and hours over the course of two weeks to get all the shots.

"It was very painful," Turner said. "Continuity loved it because all you had to do was lie down on the line of the bruises, you know? The arms, you just lined up the bruises, and then you were in the right position ... That was a real test of many things."

Turner also continues to challenge herself with new experiences, developing a one-woman cabaret show, "Finding My Voice," which got rave reviews and repeatedly sold out in New York, London and other cities between 2017 and 2020. "I now sing, baby!" said Turner in her trademark smoky voice. "It's one more thing I haven't done yet, so why not?"

Turner is currently filming an independent musical romance called "The Swearing Jar" in Canada.

As for her time on "The Kominsky Method," Turner said it was a no-brainer.

"All I had to do was really sort of fit into the whole thing," she said. "It was already working ... And Michael is my friend. You know, we're just, 'Whoa, it's you.'"



# Djokovic, Nadal, Federer grouped in same half at French Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

Well, here's a new one for the Big Three of men's tennis: Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer ended up in the same half of the French Open field. Thursday's draw in Paris marks the first time in their long and distinguished careers that Djokovic, Nadal and Federer all are on one side of the bracket at any Grand Slam tournament, according to the International Tennis Federation. It means that no more than one of them can reach the final at Roland Garros, where play begins Sunday. The trio tops the leaderboard for major men's singles tennis titles: Federer and Nadal are tied at 20 trophies, while Djokovic has 18. No one else has more than 14.

Nadal beat Djokovic in straight sets in the 2020 final for his record-extending 13th championship on the French Open's red clay, but if they meet again this time, it would have to be in the semifinals.

Djokovic is seeded No. 1, and Nadal is seeded No. 3 — the seedings adhere strictly to the ATP rankings, so the Spaniard's unprecedented previous success in Paris is irrelevant.

The only certainties before the draw were that Djokovic would be on one



**Roger Federer of Switzerland, left, Novak Djokovic of Serbia, second left, and Rafael Nadal of Spain watch an exhibition tennis match in Melbourne, Australia, in this Sunday Jan. 17, 2010, file photo.**

side and No. 2 Daniil Medvedev on the other; Nadal and No. 4 Dominic Thiem were randomly placed and could have shown up in either half.

What no one knows is how many more Grand Slam tournaments will feature all three of the sport's top men. Federer, whose record for most weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings recently was broken by Djokovic, turns 40 on Aug. 8. Nadal's 35th birthday is next week; Djokovic's 34th was last week.

Federer is currently ranked

No. 8 after playing only three matches over the past 15 months because of two operations on his right knee. He could meet Djokovic in the quarterfinals.

The other possible quarterfinal on their side is Nadal vs. No. 7 Andrey Rublev.

The two remaining potential quarterfinals are Medvedev vs. No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas, and Thiem vs. No. 6 Alexander Zverev.

Medvedev is a two-time Grand Slam finalist but is 0-4 for his French Open career. Thiem won last year's U.S.

Open and twice has been the runner-up in Paris.

Serena Williams, who has won three of her professional-era record 23 Grand Slam titles in Paris, is in a quarter of the women's draw filled with familiar faces. That includes possible matchups with three-time major champion Angelique Kerber in the third round, two-time Wimbledon champ Petra Kvitová in the fourth, then either two-time Australian Open champ Victoria Azarenka or No. 3 seed Aryna Sabalenka in the quarterfinals.

Other possible women's quarterfinals: No. 1 Ash Barty vs. No. 5 Elina Svitolina, No. 4 Sofia Kenin vs. No. 8 Iga Swiatek in what would be a rematch of the 2020 final won by Swiatek, and No. 2 Naomi Osaka vs. No. 6 Bianca Andreescu.

Four-time major champion Osaka announced Wednesday on Twitter that she would not be doing news conferences during the French Open.

A year after withdrawing from Roland Garros before the second round because of an injured left Achilles, Williams will face 74th-ranked Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania to begin things. They met once before, with Williams winning, on clay in Rome in 2016, the year Begu reached the fourth round in Paris for the deepest French Open run of her career.

Other first-round matches include Swiatek against Kaja Juvan, a 20-year-old from Slovenia who beat Kerber in the first round in Paris last year; Azarenka against another owner of two major trophies, Svetlana Kuznetsova; and Kenin, last year's Australian Open champion, against 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

Nadal and Swiatek are the favorites to win the singles titles, according to FanDuel Sportsbook. □

## Bettiol gets 1st Grand Tour stage win, Bernal keeps lead

**STRADELLA, Italy (AP)** — Italian cyclist Alberto Bettiol timed his attack perfectly to win the 18th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Thursday for his first victory in a Grand Tour, and Egan Bernal kept the leader's pink jersey at the end of the race's longest leg.

Bettiol, who rides for EF Education-Nippo, had plenty of time to sit up on his bicycle and repeatedly lift up his hands to encourage the home fans that lined the route to cheer louder as he approached the finish line. "It means really, really a lot for me, for my team, and

for the people that always believe in me," the 27-year-old Bettiol said. "It's a gift that I want to go to my former agent, Mauro Battaglini, that passed away last year, and was like a second father for me, so this victory is for him that for sure he looks on me from the sky." The 231-kilometer (144-mile) route from Rovereto to Stradella was mainly flat but ended with a series of short climbs through the rolling Pavia winelands.

Rémi Cavagna appeared to be heading for the win after attacking on the approach to the fourth-cat-

egory Castana climb and crossing with a 28-second advantage, but Bettiol had set off in pursuit and caught and passed the French time-trial champion with about seven kilometers remaining.

"The final was really hectic because a lot of guys looked at me, everybody were in my wheel, and I was sure that a strong guy like Rémi Cavagna would try something," Bettiol said. "Fortunately the final was really, really strong and really, really hard, and I could use my legs ... and in the end I catch him, and I im-



**Italy's Alberto Bettiol pedals on his way to win the 18th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Rovereto to Stradella, Italy, Thursday, May 27, 2021.**

Associated Press

mediately attacked." Simone Consonni led the rest of the breakaway across, 17 seconds behind Bettiol. Nicolas Roche was third to complete an all-Italian podium.

Bernal crossed the line in

the peloton, more than 23 minutes behind. The 2019 Tour de France champion maintained his lead of 2 minutes, 21 seconds over Damiano Caruso and 3:23 ahead of third-place Simon Yates. □



# Callaway banned through at least 2022 after harassment probe

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Former New York Mets manager Mickey Callaway was suspended by Major League Baseball on Wednesday through at least the end of the 2022 season following an investigation of sexual harassment allegations. Shortly after MLB's announcement of the suspension, the Los Angeles Angels said they had fired Callaway, the team's pitching coach since October 2019. The Angels suspended him on Feb. 2 at the start of MLB's investigation. Commissioner Rob Manfred did not release details of what MLB's probe determined, but said in a statement "I have concluded that Mr. Callaway violated MLB's policies, and that placement on the ineligible list is warranted."

In a report published on Feb. 1, The Athletic said Callaway "aggressively pursued" several women who work in sports media and sent three of them inappropriate photos. Callaway sent uninvited and sometimes unanswered messages to the women via email, text or social media and asked one to send nude photos in return, according to the report. He often commented on their appearance in a way that made them un-



In this Sunday, April 28, 2019, file photo, then-New York Mets manager Mickey Callaway stands by the dugout before a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers at Citi Field, in New York. Associated Press

comfortable and on one occasion "thrust his crotch near the face of a reporter" while she interviewed him, The Athletic said. "We want to thank the many people who cooperated with our Department of Investigations in their work, which spanned Mr. Callaway's positions with three different clubs," Manfred said. "The clubs that employed Mr. Callaway each fully cooperated with DOI, including providing emails and assisting with identifying key witnesses." Manfred said once the

2022 season ends, Callaway can apply for possible reinstatement. Callaway did not respond to a text from The Associated Press seeking comment. ESPN reported a statement it said was from Callaway that it quoted as saying: "I apologize to the women who shared with investigators any interaction that made them feel uncomfortable. To be clear, I never intended to make anyone feel this way and didn't understand that these interactions might do that or violate MLB policies.

However, those are my own blind spots, and I take responsibility for the consequences." The 46-year-old was the Cleveland Indians' pitching coach for five years before managing the Mets from 2018-19. "In an effort to understand and learn from this experience, the commissioner's office shared with us forward-looking recommendations based on insights they gleaned from the time Mickey Callaway was a member of our organization," Indians owner Paul

Dolan said in a statement. "While we were not provided with details of the report or of individual experiences or accounts, there was no finding against the Cleveland Indians related to the Callaway matter." Dolan went on to say "the information the commissioner's office shared reinforces our own conclusion that we did not do enough as an organization to create an environment where people felt comfortable reporting the inappropriate conduct they experienced or witnessed. We have contracted with an external expert with extensive experience related to workplace culture and reporting practices to help strengthen the organization." Indians general manager Chris Antonetti said the club was not penalized as a result of the investigation but, like Dolan, lamented the team had not produced a work culture in which women were comfortable reporting sexual harassment. "That's what bothers me," Antonetti said. "So I want to make sure that we do everything that we can to create a better environment moving forward. That's what I and we are exclusively focused on is how do we continue to grow and get better organizationally." □

## Wait what? Bizarre sequence helps Cubs top Pirates 5-3



Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Will Craig, right, tosses the ball to catcher Michael Perez, left, after Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez (9) hit a fielder's choice third to first and was caught in a rundown between home and first during the third inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, May 27, 2021. Associated Press

By **WILL GRAVES**  
AP Sports Writer

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Javier Baez hit reverse and

chaos ensued. Embarrassment too for the reeling Pittsburgh Pirates. The unpredictable Chi-

cago Cubs shortstop ran the first baseline backward while being chased by Pittsburgh first baseman Will Craig in the top of the third inning on Thursday, leading to a comedy of errors during a two-run rally in Chicago's 5-3 victory. Chicago's Willson Contreras was on second with two outs when Baez hit a routine grounder to third baseman Erik González. González's throw to Craig at first was up the line. Baez hit the brakes to avoid Craig's tag and started backtracking toward the plate. Rather than turn and jog a few steps to first for an inning-ending force,

Craig curiously decided to follow Baez. The move bought enough time for Contreras to round third and sprint home. Craig attempted a flip to catcher Michael Pérez, but Contreras slid under the tag while Baez took off for first. Pérez's throw to first sailed past second baseman Adam Frazier attempting to cover the bag, allowing Baez to race to second. Baez scored moments later on a single by Ian Happ to give the Cubs a three-run lead they wouldn't relinquish. Kris Bryant hit his 11th home run, and Patrick Wisdom added his first

home run since 2018 for the Cubs, who have won eight of nine. Contreras, Bryant and Wisdom finished with two hits each. Tyler Anderson (3-5) dropped his second consecutive decision thanks in part to Craig's baffling decision and a little bit of bad luck. Anderson appeared to hit Wisdom leading off the fourth, a call that was reversed to a foul ball on replay. Four pitches later Wisdom sent a fly ball over the fence in left-center field to make it 4-0. The homer was Wisdom's first in the major leagues since Sept. 15, 2018 when he played for St. Louis. □